United Nations

ICCD/CRIC(13)/L.2

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: Limited
27 March 2015

Original: English

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
Thirteenth session
Bonn, 25–27 March 2015
Agenda items 2, 3 and 4
Assessment of implementation of the Convention
Review of financial support for the implementation of the Convention
Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 sustainable development framework

Conclusions and recommendations

1. According to decision 11/COP.9, containing the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), the Committee is to produce a final report on sessions held between ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) containing its recommendations on further steps to be taken to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention. With regard to the nature of the review process, the same decision provides that the review of implementation shall be an experience-sharing and lessons-learning exercise in an interactive format, which will identify successes, obstacles and difficulties with a view to improving the implementation of the Convention.

2. The conclusions and recommendations set out in this report are therefore a summary compilation of the recommendations listed in documents ICCD/CRIC(13)/2 and Corr.1, ICCD/CRIC(13)/3, ICCD/CRIC(13)/4, ICCD/CRIC(13)/5, ICCD/CRIC(13)/6/Rev.1, ICCD/CRIC(13)/7/Rev.1 and ICCD/CRIC(13)/8, some of which were amended by participants during the thirteenth session of the CRIC (CRIC 13). Other ideas, suggestions and proposals offered by participants in CRIC 13 to further the implementation of the Convention and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) are also presented in this document. This report lists potential action that could be undertaken by Parties and other stakeholders, including the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention, after consideration and appropriate decisions by the COP, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention.

Please recycle

A. Assessment of implementation of the Convention

1. Advocacy, awareness-raising and education

3. Those country Parties which reported a percentage of national awareness of desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) and its synergies that is lower than their national targets are invited to step up their efforts in communication and education in order to meet their targets, including through the mobilization of resources for capacity-building of social communicators such as the media, civil society organizations (CSOs), practitioners and social networks.

4. Parties are invited/encouraged to assess and increase, where needed, the effectiveness of their advocacy activities and means of communication on DLDD-related issues through the use of various means, including internet-based tools and participatory approaches with a view to reaching and changing the behaviour/mentality/attitude of a wider audience.

5. Affected country Parties are encouraged/invited to continue monitoring the implementation of their national action programmes (NAPs) with regard to policy, measures and actions undertaken in the fields of advocacy, awareness-raising and education. In addition, these country Parties are encouraged/invited, where appropriate, to use land degradation neutrality (LDN) as an additional term for advocacy, awareness-raising and educational purposes.

6. The Convention's institutions shall include, in their respective 2016–2017 work programmes, specific actions in support of enabling affected country Parties to raise awareness on DLDD, targeting those countries, subregions and regions which reported that they lacked relevant capacities and instruments in this regard. A more country-driven approach is suggested to permit affected country Parties to request support from relevant institutions. It is recommended that this approach be voluntary so as to enable flexibility for affected country Parties to specifically request the necessary assistance.

7. Some Parties proposed inviting affected country Parties to place DLDD in the formal national educational programmes of primary and secondary school to raise awareness on DLDD.

8. Some Parties also proposed inviting affected country Parties to continue monitoring the implementation of their NAPs with regard to policies, measures and actions undertaken in the fields of advocacy, awareness-raising and education.

9. Some Parties furthermore proposed inviting developed country Parties, other governments, non-governmental organizations and financial institutions to undertake specific actions in support of enabling affected country Parties to raise awareness on DLDD.

10. Some Parties encouraged affected country Parties to enter into South-South and triangular cooperation to enhance their efforts in setting and achieving their national targets on advocacy, awareness-raising and education.

11. Some Parties were of the opinion that the national reports should be further improved with the aim of using them as effective tools for advocacy, awareness-raising and education.

12. Some Parties suggested using success stories for reporting on operational objective 1 rather than data that may be unreliable, particularly the total percentage of population informed about DLDD issues.

2. Policy framework

13. Affected country Parties are invited to continue their efforts to formulate/revise/align their NAPs in accordance with COP guidance so that the global target set by The Strategy is achieved by the end of 2015, if possible, or by 2018 at the latest.

14. Affected country Parties that are still in the NAP alignment process are suggested to consider the future strategic orientation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which is expected to be decided upon by the twelfth session of the COP, as guidance in this process.

15. Some Parties noted that only 20 per cent of Parties have so far aligned their NAPs with The Strategy and that The Strategy is only in effect for another two years. Therefore, they recommended that The Strategy should be revised and extended to cover the period 2016–2030 to be in line with the United Nations sustainable development goals, especially to incorporate new developments in processes relating to LDN, adaptation to climate change and synergies in line with other Rio conventions and to establish new indicators. The alignment process should continue in line with The Strategy and be achieved by 2018. The alignment process should also include the subregional and regional strategies.

16. Some Parties requested the secretariat to: (a) invite affected country Parties which did not align their NAPs in accordance with The Strategy to identify the main reasons preventing them from doing so; and (b) prepare, based on the information received, a report which identifies the main difficulties faced by Parties and present possible options to overcome problems identified.

17. Some Parties proposed that the definition of LDN be applied to all territories and not to drylands only.

18. All Parties/developed country Parties, other governments and financial organizations, particularly the Global Environment Facility (GEF), are invited to identify incentives/ways forward for the implementation of action programmes and give priority to activities included in aligned NAPs in their allocation and/or disbursement of resources.

19. Developed country Parties, technical institutions and financial organizations, particularly the GEF, are invited to ensure timeliness of financial and technical support and identify incentives for the implementation of action programmes and give priority to activities included in the aligned action programmes in their allocation and/or disbursement of resources.

20. Developed country Parties, countries in a position to do so/other governments and other development partners are invited to increase their support to the establishment of partnership agreements with affected country Parties according to their bilateral priorities, while giving special attention to the implementation of revised NAPs, and to assist them in monitoring progress towards achieving national targets.

21. The Global Mechanism (GM) is requested to compile information from the Unified Financial Annexes as contained in the reporting template for affected country Parties and developed country Parties, include the preliminary analysis/assessment of such information in its analysis of financial flows and advise on the relevance of such indicators and the utility used to compile it in future reporting exercises.

22. The GM is also requested to identify and facilitate access to new funding opportunities to support NAP implementation, including through access to global and regional funds for sustainable development/rural development/environmental issues, building on synergies/linkages between desertification/land degradation, climate change and biodiversity.

23. The Convention's institutions shall include specific actions on facilitating the policy framework and resource mobilization in their respective 2016–2017 work programmes, targeting with priority those countries that have complied with the obligations set by the COP.

3. Science, technology and knowledge

24. Affected country Parties are invited to increase their efforts to develop, implement and maintain robust, functional and regularly updated monitoring systems, taking into consideration national circumstances and conditions, recover those systems which have been discontinued and eventually expand those systems that partially cover DLDD issues in order to provide the required specific information.

25. Some Parties requested the Regional Coordination Mechanisms, with the support of the secretariat, to undertake an in-depth analysis of national, regional and global monitoring systems, including on their scope, functionality and efficiency, with a view to making this information available, especially to those development partners that can contribute technically and financially to the development and maintenance of such capacities, including the private sector.

26. Some other Parties requested the secretariat to undertake an in-depth analysis on national, regional and global monitoring systems, including on their scope, functionality and efficiency, with a view to making this information available to those development partners that can contribute technically and financially to the development and maintenance of such capacities, including the private sector. Countries should have a national monitoring system in place so that they can provide information to the global monitoring system.

27. Some other Parties invited the Convention's institutions to undertake an analysis/assessment of existing monitoring systems inclusive of their scope, functionality and efficiency. Parties are invited to share their experiences in designing and implementing their national monitoring systems. Developed country Parties and relevant financial and development institutions are invited to support this effort.

28. Some Parties requested the secretariat to support the creation of an enabling environment for affected country Parties to become a partner of global satellite monitoring networks and receive technology for data information processing and use.

29. Some Parties also requested affected country Parties to provide national information and technical advice on DLDD, with the assistance of the secretariat, with a view to making this information available to those development partners that can contribute technically and financially to the development and maintenance of monitoring systems, including the private sector.

30. Developed country Parties, countries in a position to do so/other governments, and relevant technical and financial organizations, including from the private sector, are invited to provide additional support to affected country Parties for the establishment and maintenance of national monitoring systems.

31. Recalling decision 22/COP.11, affected country Parties are invited to establish baselines and concrete targets within their NAPs, making use of scientific knowledge-based diagnostic tools at the national level at the request of the Parties.

32. The Convention's institutions shall include, in their respective 2016–2017 work programmes, specific actions in support of enabling those affected country Parties which so request to assess and monitor DLDD, targeting those countries, subregions and regions which reported that they lacked relevant capacities and instruments in this regard.

33. Some Parties stated that the scientific contribution to the implementation of the UNCCD should focus on providing applied scientific solutions, traditional knowledge and innovative approaches and replicating successful sustainable land management practices at ground level in order to achieve concrete benefits for affected populations and ecosystems. Parties should also seek to share successful experiences, which can be adapted as necessary to the local needs of different countries. Developed country Parties, relevant financial and development institutions, and CSOs are invited to support this effort.

34. Some Parties requested the UNCCD to support the creation of enabling environment for affected country Parties to become partners in global satellite monitoring networks and obtain technology for data information processing and use.

35. Affected country Parties and the secretariat are invited to enhance the efforts aimed at developing knowledge-sharing systems on DLDD issues.

36. The secretariat is requested to take additional measures to make the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal functional.

37. Some Parties recommended that the Land Degradation Neutrality Project be scaled up and that sustainable development goals be taken into account in the NAP alignment process.

38. Some country Parties emphasized the need to strengthen the roles of the Committee on Science and Technology and the Science-Policy Interface, as well as cooperation between scientists and policymakers.

39. Developed country Parties and multilateral agencies are invited to provide support to affected country Parties for capacity-building, including training and workshops and resource mobilization related to action programme alignment and implementation.

4. Capacity-building

40. Developed country Parties and international organizations, including those of the United Nations system and the GEF, shall consider reviewing their capacity-building plans with a view to increasing such support on matters relating to DLDD in a more coordinated manner to avoid duplication and enhance the effective use of resources and taking into account the post-2015 development agenda.

41. Some Parties requested the secretariat and the GM to compile the capacity-building requests by affected country Parties in accordance with the 2014 reporting process and make this information available with a view to the requests being considered by bilateral donors and multilateral agencies within the framework of possible projects and programmes.

42. Some other Parties requested the secretariat to make available information on affected country Parties which, according to the 2014 reporting, need further capacity-building assistance, if the interested country Party does not oppose the disclosure of this information, with a view to the requests being considered by bilateral donors and multilateral agencies within the framework of possible projects and programmes.

43. The Convention's institutions are requested to include specific actions on DLDD capacity-building in their respective 2016–2017 work programmes, targeting those countries, subregions and regions which reported that they lacked the capacities required for effective implementation of the Convention.

44. Affected country Parties are encouraged to enter South-South and triangular cooperation to address issues regarding the lack of capacity required for effective implementation of the Convention.

45. The secretariat and the GM are invited to engage with developed country Parties to meet their commitments.

5. Financing and technology transfer

46. Where appropriate, affected country Parties are urged to increase their efforts in establishing, maintaining and improving the efficiency of their integrated investment frameworks (IIFs) with the aim of achieving the 50 per cent target set out by The Strategy, taking into account a wider spectrum of funding resources by 2014. Developed country Parties, the GEF and other multilateral financial institutions are invited to intensify their efforts in supporting all regions in the establishment of IIFs for the forthcoming bienniums.

47. Mechanisms and approaches other than IIFs should be made available to galvanize funding in countries where IIFs may not be appropriate because of internal situations that are not conducive to them, or because they cannot be included in NAP development.

48. One country stressed the importance of clarifying the concept of technology transfer for technologies related to DLDD.

49. On the basis of the evaluation study on IIFs, the secretariat and the GM are requested to provide best practice guidelines on the development of IIFs to affected country Parties.

50. Importance should be placed not only on the establishment/development of IIFs, but also on maintaining and monitoring their efficiency. Affected country Parties are further requested to maintain the established IIFs and improve their efficiency.

51. It was noted with concern the increasing challenges of LDN and dwindling resources, and that a programmatic approach to this problem is necessary.

52. Developed country Parties and multilateral institutions, particularly the GEF, are invited to continue to facilitate a sustained increase in the adequacy, timeliness and predictability of the resources provided to affected country Parties and subregions in response to the considerations expressed by these Parties.

53. Developed country Parties, the GEF and other multilateral financial institutions are invited to intensify their efforts in supporting all regions in the establishment of IIFs, and specifically those that have expressed plans to establish IIFs for the forthcoming bienniums. Some Parties recognize that (a) there has been progress in establishing IIFs, (b) there should be a further call for both technical and financial support; and (c) all countries that have not yet developed IIFs should start doing it soon. However, financing is required to support activities such as restoring degraded lands, establishing baselines, identifying priorities, setting targets, building capacity for monitoring land degradation, and sharing of best practices.

54. The GM is requested to continue assisting affected country Parties and subregions in developing their IIFs as outlined above and in identifying innovative sources of funding, including new financial opportunities, instruments and mechanisms for this purpose.

55. The process of facilitating the establishment of the IIFs/integrated financing strategy (IFS) is too extensive for the GM to accomplish alone, and this is a reason for slow progress to date. It is recommended that other organizations implement IIFs, for example the United Nations Environment Programme or the United Nations Development Programme.

56. Developed country Parties, other governments in a position to do so and multilateral institutions, particularly the GEF, are invited to continue to facilitate a sustained increase in the adequacy, timeliness and predictability of the resources provided to affected country Parties and subregions in response to the considerations expressed by these Parties.

Adequate support in this context should be extended to subregional organization to enable their member countries to build capacity as well as mainstream and facilitate subregional discussions. Some Parties recognized the inadequacy of the financing allocated for land-based investments.

57. The criteria used for funding allocation under the GEF's System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) continue to limit financing for land degradation compared to other thematic areas. Therefore, there is a need to clarify the elements of the criteria that limit the allocation of resources to the land degradation focal area in order to increase equity in the allocation of resources.

58. Affected country Parties are invited to continue their ongoing efforts to facilitate access to technology transfer as is reflected in the 2014 reporting. In this context, some Parties invited developed country Parties and multilateral institutions, particularly the GEF, to support South-South initiatives at subregional, regional and interregional levels.

59. Affected country Parties are invited to continue their ongoing efforts to facilitate access to technology transfer as is reflected in the 2014 reporting. Some other Parties urged developed country Parties to take action to facilitate and finance technology transfer for affected country Parties under favourable conditions, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.

60. Affected country Parties are invited to step up their efforts in submitting project proposals to multilateral financial institutions, facilities and funds, and to take advantage of support provided for this purpose, particularly (but not limited to) the resources allocated under the GEF and its STAR.

61. Developed affected country Parties are invited to step up their efforts in financing projects and activities with internal resources. The use of external resources should be properly taken into account within the economic framework of their NAPs, for example those related to the European Union Rural Development Programme and other European Union Programmes.

62. Affected country Parties are invited to step up their efforts in submitting project proposals to multilateral financial institutions, facilities and funds, and to take advantage of support provided for this purpose, particularly (but not limited to) the resources allocated under the GEF and its STAR. In addition we further encourage Parties to develop and submit proposals to other funding resources particularly the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Investment Fund for Land Degradation Neutrality and the Adaptation Fund.

63. The GEF is requested to consider national needs assessments in stepping up its efforts for enhancing allocation for UNCCD-related activities during the next replenishment of the GEF.

64. It was noted by some Parties that the GEF is not the only multilateral financial institution expected to support the activities of this Convention. Therefore, some Parties requested to: (a) increase access to diversified funding sources (including the GCF, Adaptation Fund etc.) to increase land-based adaptation and mitigation; and (b) build the capacities of Parties to access funding from these new resources.

65. Some Parties called on the GEF for increased financial support, more predictable resources, and new funding opportunities, particularly in the light of the new sustainable development goals.

66. Some Parties requested the GEF to provide the criteria used for the allocation of funds to land degradation focal areas to the Parties to the UNCCD. Consistent equity in allocation is an area of concern and there is a need to review the quality of the criteria.

67. Some Parties requested the GEF to increase resources towards South-South cooperation.

68. Some Parties considered it important to raise awareness on the issue of GEF funding for Convention activities. Therefore, they stressed the need to include additional wording regarding land-based mitigation and adaptation in the 2015 negotiations of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris in order for Parties to be able to access GCF funding.

69. Some Parties noted that the GM provided training courses internationally, but expressed the need for the GM to focus more on on-the-ground projects.

70. Subsidiary bodies and institutions working in the UNCCD process are invited to include the consideration of these recommendations in their respective work programmes and plans that are to be put forward for discussion at COP 12 with a view to providing the required assistance to affected country Parties in relation to operational objective 5 of The Strategy.

71. The Convention institutions, secretariat and the GM shall include, in their respective 2016–2017 work programmes, specific actions that are in accordance with the decisions taken by the COP and that target with priority issues that have emerged from the 2012–2013 reporting process such as NAP alignment and IIFs, monitoring systems specifically targeting DLDD, partnership agreements, and synergies between plans, programmes and actions at all levels between the three Rio conventions.

72. Affected country Parties are requested to explore funding opportunities under the GCF to finance land-based approaches towards mitigation and adaptation.

73. What is understood as technology transfer should not be limited to monitoring and reporting systems, but should also include practical technology innovations on the ground. The Convention puts too much focus on monitoring and reporting and not enough focus on work on the ground. Several novel technologies have been developed, including those from EMBRAPA (the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation) that can maintain water on land. These solutions are often inexpensive and not difficult to implement. These solutions are ignored by the Convention. Affected country Parties and developed country Parties are urged to increase technology transfer activities specifically.

74. Technology transfer must be further incorporated into countries' work; all progress achieved by countries in technology transfer should be recognized. Technology transfer should take place in circumstances that are conducive to the realization of the technologies, and countries should be able to own these technologies and adapt them.

75. Some Parties expressed the need to clarify for reporting purposes the definition of technology transfer and criteria for the identification of technologies related to DLDD.

B. Review of financial support for the implementation of the Convention

76. Some Parties noted the need for the further simplification of reporting on financial flows and Unified Financial Annex to avoid duplication in the reporting from developed country Parties, affected country Parties and multilateral agencies. Thus the GM is requested to explore the options to provide default data on financial flows to the country for their verification.

77. Some Parties urged developed country Parties to increase their reporting rates as an obligation under the Convention.

78. To ensure better data coverage and a more accurate analysis of financial flows, further efforts are required to strengthen synergies with other reporting initiatives, and

equip/improve the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) platform with data mining functionalities that enable current and historical data sets to be queried, as well as tools that allow the platform to systematically disaggregate the financial commitments between internal and external funding resources.

79. To ensure better data coverage and a more accurate analysis of financial flows, further efforts are required to strengthen synergies with other reporting initiatives and equip the PRAIS platform with data. The reporting format does not reflect on national sectoral reports and therefore cannot inform the national system. Some Parties recognize the need to improve the relevance of the PRAIS system to best reflect relevant national reporting requirements.

80. The trend showing a steady level of nominal commitments and decreasing weighted commitments at global level requires urgent attention; specific actions may be required to address this negative trend. Developed country Parties and multilateral agencies are requested to strengthen their efforts in providing substantial financial resources and other forms of support to assist affected country Parties to combat DLDD.

81. The trend showing a steady level of nominal commitments and decreasing weighted commitments at global level requires urgent attention. Developed country Parties and multilateral agencies are requested to strengthen their efforts in providing substantial financial resources and other forms of support to assist affected country Parties to combat DLDD.

82. Some Parties requested that efforts be made at the Assembly of the GEF, including through regional meetings, to address the issue of unequal distribution of funds among the conventions. Also to be addressed is the issue of resources being allocated to land degradation projects from focal areas for other conventions.

83. The multi-purpose nature of an increasing share of UNCCD-related activities that simultaneously target climate change (mitigation and adaptation) and biodiversity objectives is encouraging. Efforts should be made at all levels to further recognize and harness synergies among the Rio conventions, particularly with regard to budgeting and project-level implementation. Soil forms the basis for achieving the objectives of the other conventions, and the focus should therefore be on land productivity to enhance synergies among the other Rio conventions.

84. The UNCCD secretariat, GM and country Parties are invited to strengthen synergies between Rio conventions by improving communication between focal points of the other Rio conventions. The secretariats of other Rio conventions are invited to explore options to strengthen synergies, particularly at budget-level and project-level.

85. Financial flows involving innovative funding sources are still underrepresented compared with traditional funding sources. More specific actions should be taken to support resource mobilization from innovative funding sources including the private sector, in financing UNCCD implementation, in line with decision 14/COP.11. In this regard developed country Parties are invited to increase their total nominal commitment towards financing activities implemented by affected country Parties. In pursuit of this objective, there is a need for the dissemination of the various financial models and frameworks available which address the interests of all concerned stakeholders in an equitable manner. While recognizing the value of public-private partnerships, the need to look at equity and fairness to all stakeholders when pursuing these partnerships is emphasized. A workshop was suggested on various public-private financial models, including frameworks for public-private partnership and ensuring that all countries are equally represented.

86. Some Parties, recalling article 6 of the Convention, noted that obligations of developed country Parties "actively support, as agreed, individually or jointly, the efforts of

affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, and the least developed countries, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;' are not being met. The main problem of resources not forthcoming to properly implement the Convention might not be properly addressed by the LDN approach.

87. Some Parties encouraged developed country Parties to accompany their strong demands with corresponding resources regarding the implementation of sustainable land management practices.

88. The GM is invited to continue its efforts to facilitate access to information for affected country Parties on how to access funds based on the conditions in each region.

89. More financial resources and sharing of best practices are needed in order to improve the overall implementation of the Convention.

90. The secretariat is requested to undertake a study of the financial resources needed by the African country Parties and other developing country Parties to implement the envisaged strategies. The Group of African States envisions that, a new strategy will be needed leading up to 2030, and should preferably be completed by 2016. Developed country Parties are encouraged to make contributions towards the development of this strategy.

91. Some Parties requested the secretariat to undertake a study on the amount of resources required for African country Parties to face the challenges of desertification.

92. In developing countries, the private sector is not in a position to play a meaningful role. More efforts should be made to increase the involvement of the private sector in combatting desertification.

93. The secretariat should advocate for the sustainable development goals and its added value to the Convention, with a view to increasing commitments at global level.

94. Some Parties requested the secretariat to undertake a study on the long-term global impact of non-action regarding land degradation, particularly with regard to NAPs, subregional action programmes and regional action programmes. The COP is called upon to further refine and focus UNCCD priorities at the relevant levels.

95. Some Parties emphasized that more should be done in terms of financing initiatives to combat land degradation and implement SLM practices.

C. Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 sustainable development framework

96. Some Parties raised concerns that the Convention is prejudging outcomes of ongoing international consultations and negotiations relating to land degradation neutrality (LDN) and funding opportunities.

97. Some Parties requested the UNCCD and GEF secretariats to continue consultations on objectives and options for enabling activities for the Sixth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-6), with a view to including technical and financial support for the 2016 reporting and target-setting exercise, particularly in the area of progress reporting and national target-setting towards the LDN goal.

98. The Convention's institutions are requested to continue consultations with the GEF on objectives and options for financing enabling activities and actions geared towards the implementation of the Convention and the national action programmes (NAPs), including the technical and financial support for the 2016 reporting process.

99. The UNCCD and GEF secretariats are requested to continue consultations on objectives and options for GEF-6 enabling activities, with a view to including technical and financial support for the 2016 reporting exercise, including any relevant goals that may come out of the United Nations sustainable development goals process.

100. Affected country Parties are invited to continue consultations on a global plan for the alignment of NAPs with the LDN goal with a view to its further consideration and possible adoption at future COPs.

101. Some Parties suggested that LDN goals should be included in NAPs or, at the discretion of Parties, in other relevant programmes.

102. The secretariat is requested to continue facilitating pilot projects to assist countries that wish to implement the LDN approach in the formulation, alignment and implementation of the NAPs. In this regard, participating countries are requested to:

(a) Translate the LDN goal into national voluntary targets, making use of the implementation framework and the monitoring and assessment mechanisms established within the UNCCD process;

(b) Assess the extent and the trend of land degradation in the affected areas in their countries, gather and interpret additional relevant data and identify realistic targets for integrating LDN in their NAPs and subsequently monitoring progress;

(c) Establish baseline indicators to set national voluntary targets for LDN within their NAPs; and

(d) Adopt their own national voluntary targets to achieve LDN by 2030.

103. Parties are invited to engage in consultations on the outcome of deliberations of the Intergovernmental Woking Group on Land Degradation Neutrality with a view to further discussing the issue during the twelfth session of the COP (COP 12).

104. Affected country Parties are invited to continue consultations on the global plan for NAP alignment with any relevant goals that may emerge from the sustainable development goal process.

105. The secretariat and the GM are requested to facilitate such consultations, including by organizing specific meetings back-to-back to COP 12.

106. Some Parties requested the deletion of paragraph 105 above noting the request to the secretariat and GM in this text could only come through a COP decision, which would create a retroactive request that would be impossible for the secretariat and the GM to fulfil.

107. Some Parties suggested that sustainable development goals, targets and indicators should be taken into account during development and implementation of NAPs and other relevant programmes.

108. Some Parties requested the GM to continue to: (i) provide support to affected country Parties in establishing national-level integrated investment frameworks (IIFs) for UNCCD implementation that can make full use of existing and emerging funding opportunities; (ii) explore the engagement of the broadest possible spectrum of investors for scaling up sustainable land management (SLM) across all land-use sectors; and (iii) incentivize land restoration and rehabilitation in degraded lands as well as landscape approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives and biodiversity. Mechanisms and instruments other than the IIFs should be used to leverage domestic and international resources.

109. Some other Parties requested the GM to continue to (i) provide support to affected country Parties in establishing national-level IIFs for UNCCD implementation that can

make full use of existing and emerging funding opportunities. These new funding options should not be seen as replacing funding mechanisms established in the Convention; (ii) explore the engagement of the broadest possible spectrum of investors for scaling up SLM according to national necessities; and (iii) incentivise land restoration and rehabilitation in degraded lands.

110. Some Parties noted that the development of IIFs and integrated financial strategies is not suitable for all countries due to cost implications and legal constraints. Thus the GM is requested to explore additional mechanisms to support countries in the mobilization and leveraging of domestic and external resources.

111. Developed country Parties and Convention's institutions are invited to consider the establishment of new and additional funds for affected country Parties with a view to implementing SLM practices and LDN goals, particularly for countries which chose to strive towards land degradation neutrality at the national level.

112. The mechanisms and financing sources for the future work of the Convention should be implemented at national level, be based on voluntary targets and should not only be linked to the concept of LDN.

113. The Convention should focus on capacity-building and transfer of technologies under favorable terms for affected country Parties. In addition, the work of the Convention should result in a search for solutions in the field in arid areas and dry sub-humid semi-arid as affected, in a way to meet its objectives and thereby improve the living conditions of its inhabitants, enhance ecosystems, and ultimately reduce poverty.

114. Some other Parties stressed that it is important for the Convention to make use of opportunities that are opening up within a changing international environment.

115. Some Parties expressed concern about funding for capacity-building activities under the GEF and how much needed financing failed to reach the national level.